

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY SECURES \$205,000 FOR FOUR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that he has secured \$205,000 for area projects in a spending bill the House of Representatives passed today. The Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2002 includes \$105,000 for the Four County Library System and \$100,000 for the Paleontological Research Institute in Ithaca.

"Being on the Appropriations Committee has put me in a position to help some very worthy projects," said Hinchey. "It's gratifying to be able to provide direct assistance for this important work."

Hinchey has earmarked \$105,000 in the Institute for Museum and Library Services' budget for the Four County Library System to upgrade the technological capability of its "Cybermobile." The Cybermobile is a library-owned vehicle that regularly travels to communities in Four County's service area, offering six on-board satellite-linked computers with Internet access and more than 3,000 books. The federal funding will allow the Four County Library System to establish a distance-learning program linked with area health providers to provide a rural information network for such services as chronic disease prevention and nutrition.

The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill also includes a \$100,000 earmark in the Department of Education's budget for the Paleontological Research Institute (PRI) for earth science education programming for its Museum of the Earth, a state-of-the-art, specimen-based interactive exhibit on the history and diversity of life on Earth. PRI is an independent educational and research organization that houses over three million fossils, making it one of the nation's largest collections of fossils.

"Educational programming is central to our mission," said Warren Allmon, Director of PRI. "These funds will allow us to expand and enhance our educational programming inside our new museum when it opens in 2003. PRI's educational outreach currently serves about ten thousand people per year. With the Congressman's help, we'll increase that many times over. We are fortunate to be represented by someone who understands and appreciates the importance of earth science to education and our society at large. Maurice Hinchey is a wonderful partner in our efforts at PRI."

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Congressman Maurice Hinchey

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The House passed the Fiscal Year 2002 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill this afternoon. The bill, one of thirteen annual spending bills that must be passed each year, determines discretionary funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and a number of independent federal agencies. Hinchey is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which has the primary responsibility for drafting the bills.